

International Application No
PCT/IB 03/03632

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F1/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 984 103 A (NIGAM ANIL K) 8 January 1991 (1991-01-08) abstract column 10, line 67 - column 11, line 46 claims 1,2 figure 2	1,3,5-9
Y	GB 2 347 531 A (IBM) 6 September 2000 (2000-09-06) abstract	1,3,5-9
A	page 8, line 21 - page 10, line 14 claims 1,2,5,10 figure 2	2,4
A	US 5 481 733 A (DOUGLIS FREDERICK ET AL) 2 January 1996 (1996-01-02) column 5, line 48 - column 6, line 39 column 8, lines 1-6,38-52	1-9
	----- -/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 June 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

06/07/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Rosken, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/IB 03/03632

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 791 879 A (IBM) 27 August 1997 (1997-08-27) the whole document -----	1,3,8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/IB 03/03632

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4984103	A	08-01-1991	US 4933795 A	12-06-1990
			AU 2829689 A	05-07-1989
			JP 2728127 B2	18-03-1998
			JP 9120617 A	06-05-1997
			JP 2685090 B2	03-12-1997
			JP 9120653 A	06-05-1997
			JP 2685091 B2	03-12-1997
			JP 9120652 A	06-05-1997
			JP 2669509 B2	29-10-1997
			JP 3501661 T	11-04-1991
			KR 9500950 B1	06-02-1995
			WO 8905506 A1	15-06-1989
			US 4977471 A	11-12-1990
			US 4942484 A	17-07-1990
GB 2347531	A	06-09-2000	JP 2000173152 A	23-06-2000
			SG 82037 A1	24-07-2001
			US 6553501 B1	22-04-2003
US 5481733	A	02-01-1996	JP 8087383 A	02-04-1996
			US 5493670 A	20-02-1996
EP 0791879	A	27-08-1997	GB 2310513 A	27-08-1997
			CN 1162151 A , B	15-10-1997
			DE 69703852 D1	15-02-2001
			DE 69703852 T2	13-06-2001
			EP 0791879 A2	27-08-1997
			JP 3254397 B2	04-02-2002
			JP 9244818 A	19-09-1997
			KR 207889 B1	15-07-1999
			TW 451123 B	21-08-2001
			US 5845291 A	01-12-1998